

Senate Bill 478
February 19, 2009

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SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 25

DATE 2.19.09

BILL NO. SB 478

I am a farmer from Toston, Broadwater County.
I served about 5 years on the Broadwater Co. Planning Board
I also work on the family ranch.
I have a current real estate license.

We have done 2 conservation easements on land owned and operated by the family since 1896 and on land purchased in 1991.

We have borrowed money on the land before and since donating the easements. There was no real difference to the lenders. We used both Wells Fargo and Farmer MAC.

There was no change in the hunting, still use block mgmt and private access.

No changes to the ag operations at all.

No changes to the property taxes.

This bill is an invasive measure towards our private property rights. Just strike Conservation and see how it looks, if it affected powerline, phone, road or other easements.

We are competent to make contracts and decisions about our property rights. No need for a nanny government telling us to eat our peas because they're good for us.

I'm available to answer any questions.

Thank You.